

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 270852Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1167

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND SPAIN

REF LISBON 1016

1. SPANISH PRESS PUBLISHED FEB 26 NEWS ITEM TO EFFECT THAT AMERICAN CITIZEN ALF JOHNSEN AND SPANISH INDUSTRIALIST CARLOS ARMERO HAD BEEN DETAINED FORCIBLY IN THEIR LISBON HOTEL FOR PAST WEEK BY COPCON GUARDS SUPPLEMENTED BY WORKERS AFTER HAVING BEEN OFFICIALLY TOLD THAT THEY COULD NOT LEAVE PORTUGAL. ARMERO AND JOHNSEN ARE REPORTEDLY PARTNERS IN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE LOCATED IN SPAIN BUT WITH COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION IN PORTUGAL. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, WORKERS IN PORTUGAL, WHEN FACED WITH THREAT OF REDUCTION IN FORCE, PROTESTED TO MINISTRY OF LABOR "DOMINATED BY COMMUNIST PARTY" DEMANDING THAT TWO DIRECTORS PUT UP BANK GUARANTEES TO COVER POSSIBLE DISMISSALS IN FUTURE. WORKERS REPORTEDLY OCCUPY OFFICES OF ENTERPRISE.

2. SPANISH PRESS REPORTS FEB 26 THAT ITS EMBASSY IN LISBON PROTESTED TO PORTUGUESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
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ASSASSINATION OF SPANISH CITIZEN JERONIMO DIAZ

SCHWARTZ WHICH TOOK PLACE NIGHT OF FEB 22 IN HOME OF FRIENDS WHO ARE ALSO SPANISH CITIZENS IN CASCAIS. SCHWARTZ WAS REP IN PORTUGAL OF CEPESA, SPANISH STATE PETROLEUM ORGANIZATION. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN MADRID HAS ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENT DENYING THAT THERE WERE ANY POLITICAL OVERTONES TO DEATH OF SCHWARTZ OR ROBBERY OF SPANISH CITIZEN.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST INCIDENT TO BE MADE PUBLIC IN WHICH GOS HAS FORMALLY LODGED ANY PROTEST WITH NEW GOP SINCE APRIL, 1974. HERETOFORE BOTH SPAIN AND PORTUGAL HAVE SOUGHT TO KEEP BILATERAL RELATIONS ON EVEN KEEL DESPITE PROVOCATIONS. CIRCUMSTANCES REPORTEDLY SURROUNDING DETENTION OF ARMERO AND JOHNSEN ARE LIKELY TO EXACERBATE RELATIONS PARTICULARLY IF SPANISH ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE AFFECTED AND SPANISH CITIZEN SEEMINGLY UNABLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO LEGAL DEFENSE OR TRIBUNAL TO JUSTIFY SUCH DETENTION. EMBASSY NOTES THAT GOS MIGHT ALSO BE CONCERNED WITH BOMBING OF CAR BELONGING TO "EXPRESSO" DIRECTOR, PINTO BALSAMAO, WHO IS WELL-KNOWN FRIEND OF NICOLAS FRANCO, SON OF FRANCO'S BROTHER WHO WAS FOR MANY YEARS SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL. GOS ALSO LIKELY TO RAISE WITH GOP ISSUE OF ANTI-SPANISH DEMONSTRATION PLANNED IN LISBON MARCH 3, FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTION OF MURDERER/ANARCHIST PUICH ANTICH, REPORTED IN "INFORMACIONES" FEB 26.  
EATON

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